

**HEDONISM IN OSCAR WILDE'S NOVEL *THE PICTURE OF
DORIAN GRAY* (1891) : A MARXIST APPROACH**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement
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APPROVAL

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HEDONISM IN OSCAR WILDE'S NOVEL *THE PICTURE OF DORIAN*
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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the lifestyle of hedonism in the novel *The Picture Of Dorian Gray* from Oscar Wilde in 1891. The data collection technique of this research is to collect data from objects in accordance with the issue to be analyzed. The theory used as a reference is the theory of Marxism. The results of this analysis are in the form of finding several causal indicators about the issue of hedonism. A number of causative indicators found can be categorized into two types, namely internal factors and external factors. Internal factors are factors that come from yourself due to lack of mature person or lack of strong self-principles. while external factors are external factors such as family, friends, environment, society etc. The main character, Dorian Gray is exposed to the understanding of hedonism in her life as a result of being too innocent and lacking self-principles to prevent negative outside influences by her friend, Lord Henry Wotton. This is what caused Dorian to finally fall into a hedonistic lifestyle.

Keywords: lifestyle, hedonism, adolescents

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisa gaya hidup hedonisme dalam novel *The Picture Of Dorian Gray* dari Oscar Wilde tahun 1891. Adapun teknik pengumpulan data penelitian ini adalah mengumpulkan data dari objek yang sesuai dengan isu untuk dianalisa. Teori yang digunakan sebagai acuan adalah teori marxisme. Hasil dari analisa ini berupa penemuan beberapa indikator penyebab tentang isu hedonisme. Sejumlah indikator penyebab yang ditemukan dapat dikategorikan menjadi dua tipe yaitu factor internal dan factor eksternal. Factor internal adalah factor yang datang dari diri sendiri akibat kurang dewasanya seseorang atau kurangnya memiliki prinsip diri yang kuat. sedangkan factor eksternal adalah factor dari luar seperti factor keluarga, teman, lingkungan, masyarakat dll. Karakter utama, Dorian Gray terkena paham hedonisme dalam kehidupannya akibat dari terlalu polos dan kurangnya prinsip diri untuk mencegah pengaruh negative dari luar yang dilakukan oleh temannya, Lord Henry Wotton. Hal inilah yang menyebabkan Dorian akhirnya terjatuh kedalam gaya hidup yang hedonis.

Kata kunci : gaya hidup, hedonisme, remaja

1. INTRODUCTION

Since a long time ago, lifestyle has become an inseparable thing in human life.

Lifestyle seems to be something inseparable in human life. Even some people give priority to lifestyle more than anything that he needs. They fulfill their

lifestyle needs regardless of the impact that will occur behind them. Some people are willing to do anything to fulfill their lifestyle. When someone has a higher income, usually his lifestyle will be more improved. In fact, most people prefer to be in debt to fulfill their lifestyle rather than lowering their lifestyle. His lifestyle can be seen from the way he fulfills his life pleasures such as his needs for fashion, food, luxury goods, vehicles, hangouts, holidays, and others. They do this to fulfill their enjoyment and satisfaction. This lifestyle is called hedonism.

As the times and modernization developed, the influence of hedonism began to spread so easily and quickly. Modernization is a shift of life and behavior and mentality of a community from standard mediocre towards a better and higher standard of living as a result of the development of the era. Hedonism that used to be just an understanding that aims to get a more decent life has now shifted to a broader meaning that is a lifestyle that only seeks pleasure that makes the culprit have a high standard of life. In the era of modernization like today hedonism has become the lifestyle of most people. Many people even in remote areas have now begun to be influenced by the understanding of this hedonism. Hedonism has changed a person's personality from the mediocre to someone who has a very high life demands. The ease of various means is one of the reasons why hedonism is easily spread.

The spread of hedonism very quickly occurred due to several important causes, namely internal factors and external factors. Internal factors can be said to be the main factor a person has a lifestyle of hedonism. It is human nature that he will never be satisfied with what he has got. Even though they already have something that is already so good, most people want something more than what they already have. An individual wants something more to fulfill his satisfaction. Although there are some people who are indeed to get what they don't have, most people don't. They want something more just to fulfill their satisfaction.

The development of the hedonism lifestyle is also influenced by external factors. An individual can never be separated from external factors or social environment, and social environment has a very large impact in influencing

one's lifestyle. When someone lives in an environment that has a luxurious lifestyle, if the individual does not have strong principles, he will probably be carried away by the hedonism lifestyle. When the other person is talking about the luxury items they have, or when that other person can travel for fun purposes then someone might feel like what he hears. Or even if the person does not directly interact with other people, but he sees what other people are doing, this can also have an influence to follow what he sees.

From the explanation and background of the hedonism, the writer tries to do a critical analysis of the behavior of hedonism in Oscar Wilde's fiction artwork ("The Picture Of Dorian Gray"). The novel "The Picture Of Dorian Gray" was published in 1891. The novel consists of 272 pages. The behavior of hedonism in this novel is reflected in the nature of the main character in this story, Dorian Gray. Dorian in this novel is depicted as a 20-year-old young man of royal descent who is very handsome and innocent and of course lives with a wealth of wealth and luxury. Because of his naive nature and lack of self-control and outside influence finally Dorian turned into an ambitious young man in the search for the joy of society, a beauty devotee who only seeks self-satisfaction merely enjoys his society without regard to how he gets his pleasure and what impact he will have

In this research the writer is interested in choosing "The Picture of Dorian Gray" for analysis for several reasons. The first is because in hedonism there are so many important moral values that are shown by some character roles in the novel. the second is adolescent generation which is interesting to study because there are so many complex problems in it, because adolescence is a time that determines the future life of a person himself or greater than that, the national community to a country.

Based on several background events about the hedonism lifestyle above, the writer wants to examine the issue of the hedonism lifestyle by taking the title "HEDONISM IN OSCAR WILDE'S NOVEL THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY: A MARXIST APPROACH".

1.1 Problem Statement

The researcher formularize the three problem statements in this research:

- a. What types of hedonism as a lifestyle do teenagers do?
- b. How can someone be affected by hedonism?
- c. What are the negative effects of a hedonism lifestyle

2. METHOD

The research method used by the author in this study is a qualitative research method. The research method used in this research is descriptive analysis method which is carried out by describing the facts in this novel and then analyzing this novel.

By using this research method the writer tries to find out the phenomena that exist in this novel. Then the writer gets an issue about the lifestyle experienced by one of the characters in this story. In this observation, it can be seen how much the hedonic lifestyle that occurs in this novel, which the writer then adopts as a research issue. The work sequence of this descriptive method is collecting data, compiling, classifying, then interpreting the narrative in this novel.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

After analyzing *The Picture Of Dorian Gray Dear Martin*, the researcher finds some findings that in order to answer the problem statements below.

3.1 Finding.

- 3.1.1 Kind of hedonism events appears in Dorian in "The picture of Dorian Gray" Oscar Wilde's novel. Below are the kinds of hedonism appearing in Oscar Wilde's original "The picture of Dorian Gray".
(TPODG /page.34 /p.3.4)

"How sad! I will grow old and ugly, also ugly. But, this painting will forever remain young. If only I could stay young, and if only this painting had aged, not me! If it could be like that, if it could be like that - I am willing to give everything so that this can happen. Yes, there is nothing else I want in this world beyond my desire. I will give my soul. "

From the above quotation it can be seen that there is a hedonism ideology appears on dorian's mind. After getting influence from Lord Henry, Dorian began to think that he would turn older and frightening so that he could no longer enjoy his youth. When Dorian turned around and looked at the picture, he stood there motionless and surprised as if he didn't recognize her. He felt his own beauty coming like a revelation he had never felt before. The influence of Lord Henry made him realize and adore his handsome, charming artist. Lord Henry who came and influenced him impressed him with his own good looks and gave him a terrible warning of the shortness of his youth and the speed at which his old age would come. The influence of Lord Henry was enough to move Dorian's consciousness. Dorian stood staring at the shadow of her own beauty with the image in her head as it flashed through her head, there would be a time when her handsome, sparkling face would turn into a tangle, her beautiful, colorful eyes would become dimmer, the elegance of her figure would disappear and change in shape. His life that was getting older made him think about his body which would be despicable, terrible and rude. His physical changes made him afraid of losing his good looks and the pleasure of his youth. So because of the bad influence of Henry Henry's lordism, Dorian was influenced to enjoy many things in his youth.

(TPODG /page 35/p.3.2)

'I'm jealous of all the beauty that doesn't die. I am jealous of the portrait you have drawn about me. Why must I keep what I need to lose? Every passing moment takes something from me, and gives it to him. Oh, if it's just the opposite! If the picture can change, and I can always be like this! Why did you paint it? It will make fun of me one day, mock me horribly! 'Hot tears flowed into his eyes; he pulled his hand away, and, throwing himself on the couch, he buried his face in the pillow, as if he were praying.

The quotation above shows one event when dorian compare him self to him self picture that has draw by basil. Dorian was jealous of his paintings that never grew old and will always be young. Dorian is aware that his physical form will get older, while the painting will never change and will forever be like that. Dorian thought that one day the painting would make fun of him with Dorian's face and body getting worse and unable to have fun like he did when he was young. He

even imagined crazy by saying that he wanted his paintings to grow older while he would stay young. Dorian's sadness was very real when Dorian's face turned pale and put his face on the pillow and looked back at his painting with tears flowing on his handsome face. The influence of Lord Henry seemed to have influenced Dorian so deeply that it made him think that it was no longer rational.

(TPODG/page.99 /p.3.3)

He felt the time had come to make a choice. Or has the choice been made? Yes, life has decided that for her, - life, and her unlimited curiosity about life. Eternal youth, unlimited desire, little pleasure and secret, wild joy and wilder sins, - he must have all these things.

In the verse above, the writer tells us that Dorian has really changed. One morning Dorian sat in front of her portrait and asked her admiration for her own beauty. Dorian felt she had to make a choice to be able to enjoy the life of her youth. Until one night when his two friends, Basil and Lord Henry came to his house Dorian invited the two friends to go out to enjoy the night with his three friends. They decided to look for adventure in the city of London so gray and terrible, they drowned in the night and spent the night with hundreds of other people. Yes, dorian has really changed, there has been a great turning point in him since being influenced by Lord Henry's influence.

(TPODG /page.103 /p.5.1)

'Dorian, this is terrible! Something has changed you completely. You look exactly the same as the extraordinary boy who used to come to my studio, day after day, to sit for his picture. But you are simple, natural, and loving at that time. You are the purest creature in the whole world. Now, I do not know what happened to you. You talk as if you have no heart, no mercy on you. That's all Harry's influence.

From the quotation above tells the shock of Basil (Dorian's friend) when he found out that Dorian had left her lover Sybil vane alone outside the theater after performing so badly in the theater that she killed herself. Sybil vane committed suicide by drinking poison because of her disappointment at Dorian who had left her alone but no regrets and significant sadness were seen on Dorian's face, she immediately dispelled the regret. But not with Hallward, he was surprised by Dorian's attitude when his lover Sybil vane died. Dorian still had the composure to

sleep. When her lover lay dead Dorian didn't even care about everything. When Basil asked this to Dorian, he seemed to no longer care about it as seen in his conversation. Are you talking about another woman who is more charming and more beautiful in how to sing when Sybil Vane is lying dead? don't you realize there's horror in the shop for that little white body! said Hallward. Then Dorian answers 'Stop, Basil! I will not hear it and do not want to talk about it! "Dorian exclaimed. We shouldn't talk about things. What has happened. What was past has passed, Dorian said."

(TPOD/page.105 /p.5.11)

Well, I'm not like the young man you told me when we were in Marlowe together, the young man who used to say that low satin can comfort one for all the miseries of life. I love beautiful things that can be touched and handled. Old Brocades, green bronze, varnish, carved ivory, beautiful surroundings, luxury, splendor, - there is much to be gained from all this.

From the quotation above it can be seen that Dorian has been blind to the past. This event occurred when Basil (a dorian friend) wanted to explain that something had changed in Dorian. But Dorian refused to explain how his problems were still very innocent, but after meeting with Lord Henry, Dorian seemed to have found the life he had been searching for. Basil was shocked by Dorian's conversation to learn that Dorian had developed into a young adult far from his life. Basil felt moved and strange, something in his pure feminism in his tenderness was now gone. Dorian even asked the basil to teach him to forget about his problems and bring them to the lives of adults.

3.1.2 The influence of hedonism on dorian's self appears in "the picture of dorian gray" oscar wilde's novel.

Most all of the reason why Dorian became the person that has the hedonism mindset is because of his relation to his friends, Lord Henry. Below are the kind of influence of hedonism by his friends in Oscar Wilde's novel "The picture of Dorian gray".

(1/TPODG / Page 23/p.2.5)

Dorian stepped on the dais, in the atmosphere of a young Greek martyr, and made a little moue of dissatisfaction with Lord Henry, to whom he preferred to hate. He so disliked Hallward. They make a pleasant difference. And he has a very beautiful voice. After a while he said to her, "Do you really have a very bad

influence, Lord Henry? As bad as Basil said? "There is no good influence, Mr. Gray. All influence is immoral, - immoral from a scientific point of view. '

From the quotation above it can be seen that Dorian began to pay attention to Lord Henry because Lord Henry was someone who attracted Dorian because of his intelligence and because he had extensive insight. Lord Henry was quite attractive to Dorian by the way he spoke. This was the first time Dorian had met Lord Henry. At that time Dorian was on the stand, becoming the object of the basil painting. At that time Henry Henry was not allowed to enter the bacillus through his house guards because Basil knew that Henry Henry had a bad influence and knew that he would influence Dorian's innocence with a specific purpose. But with his expertise in arranging the words and because his reason for meeting Dorian, then Lord Henry managed to enter the basil house and finally met with Dorian. Basil, with a slight disappointment, finally introduced Dorian to Lord Henry. Lord Henry was quite surprised by Dorian's physical appearance which was very charming and began to spread his influence on Dorian while worshipping his good looks. Dorian, who was still very polospoon, was tempted by Lord Henry's praise and liked every utterance that Lord Henry said as seen in his saying "Do you really have a very bad influence, Lord Henry? As bad as Basil said? "There is no good influence, Mr. Gray. All influence is immoral, - immoral from a scientific point of view. '

Lord Henry with his intelligence was able to win Dorian's heart for the first time

(2/TPODG /page.30/P.3.3)

"Use your youth while you still have it. In my opinion, it is truly a tragedy if you waste your gift. Because youth lasts only shortly, "said Lord Henry.

In these words clearly seen how Lord Henry tried to direct Dorian to spend his youth that is not long. He is Lord Henry, a friend who changes Dorian's personality. Henry is a picture of a friend who gives a bad influence because he plays a very influential role in Dorian thinking so that Dorian falls into a hedonic lifestyle. Henry is a 30-year-old aristocrat, an intelligent as well as highly educated and likes to influence others. Henry likes to experiment with the human personality to find everything about the pleasures of life for his satisfaction. It was he who taught Dorian to enjoy his youth by living freely without limitations.

Henry really turned Dorian into a young man who seemed to lose his mind and only concerned with the satisfaction of his youth as mentioned in the quota above. Dorian, who was originally portrayed as a 20-year-old young man of royal descent who was very handsome and innocent and naturally lived with a wealth of wealth and luxury. Because of his naive nature and lack of self-control and the influence of Lord Henry, he finally turned into an ambitious young man in the quest for youth, a beauty devotee who only seeks self-satisfaction merely enjoys his masses regardless of how he gets his pleasure and what impact he will have. Dorian didn't even care about what other people thought of her and felt she would do anything as long as it made her happy.

(3 / TPODG / Pages 24-25. Paragraph 3)

'I believe that if a human being has to live his life fully, and must fully give form to every feeling, pressure on every thought, reality for every dream, - I believe that the world will get a joy of encouragement so fresh that we will forget all the diseases of mediaevalism , and go back to the Hellenic ideal, - to something finer, richer, than the Hellenic ideal.'

The quotation is how Lord Henry influenced Dorian as long as Dorian was painted by Basil. With his soft and low voice Lord Henry tells Dorian to do things that are forbidden because there Dorian will find his pleasure. Lord Henry told Dorian to live life fully, relieve the pain he was experiencing, because according to Lord Henry everyone has the right to get feelings and satisfaction in living life. But some people do not dare to do things that should not be violated so that they will only undergo the pressures on themselves. One way to get satisfaction according to Lord Henry is to violate the things that are prohibited. And the words of Lord Henry succeeded in making Dorian waver as revealed in the next paragraph. "Stop!" Murmured Dorian Gray, "stop! You are confusing me. I don't know what to say. There are some answers for you, but I can't find them. Don't talk. Let me think, or, more precisely, let me try not to think."

(4 / TPODG / Page 25 - 30)

'When I met you, I saw that you were very unconscious about who you really are, what you might actually be doing. There is so much about you that fascinates me that I feel I have to tell you something about you. I think how tragic if you are in vain. Because there is little time so that your youth will last, - like a little time.'

The moment occurred when Dorian began to doubt what was said by Lord Henry. For almost ten minutes Dorian stood up and kept thinking about Lord Henry's words. Dorian realized an entirely new impulse had entered and worked within her. A word that is spoken with deliberate paradox in it can make Dorian think weird. Lord Henry saw his expression being shaken. Lord Henry silenced Dorian for a moment because he knew the right psychological moment when he had to say nothing. Lord Henry has added a new experience to Dorian's brain. Dorian came out of the basil house to the garden. After a while Lord Henry overtook Dorian and tried to take the opportunity to guide Dorian further than he thought. Lord Henry continues to give praise about his good looks and his youth which will expire and also gives fear in his old age and how his physical and good looks will turn out horribly as in his conversations with Lord Henry below.

"Dorian you have the most extraordinary time, and adolescence is one thing that is worth having. I don't feel that, Henry. 'No, you don't feel it now. One day, when you are old and wrinkled and ugly, when the mind has burned your face. Yes, Mr. Gray, the gods have been kind to you. But what the gods gave them was quickly taken. You only have a few years to truly live. When your youth leaves, your beauty will accompany it, and then you will suddenly find that there is no victory left for you, or must be satisfied with that cruel victory that your past memories will be more bitter than defeat, Realize your youth when you have it. Do not waste."

And at the end of that sentence Lord Henry stated the purpose of all the praise and fear he gave to Dorian for not wasting his teenage years. on the explanation above there are some kind of hedonism events appearing and the cause of hedonism events of Dorian in "The picture of Dorian Gray "Oscar Wilde's novel. The first is the kind of hedonism events appears in "The picture of Dorian Gray" Oscar Wilde's novel is based on Dorian as the main character in this novel.

3.2 Discussion.

From the findings part above we can make some discuss about the hedonic lifestyle. The hedonic lifestyle is a view of a lifestyle that assumes that seeking as

much happiness as possible is the highest peak of one's life goals without thinking about the bad effects that will be caused by this hedonistic understanding. This is suitable with the statements of some experts about the hedonistic lifestyle, one of which is Collins Gem's statement which says that Hedonism is a doctrine which states that pleasure is the most important thing in life. In other words, hedonism is an understanding held by people who are only looking for pleasure in life. Collins Gem (1993: 97).

In the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, we can see the characteristics of people who are exposed to hedonism, namely by Dorian Gray as in his statement. *How sad! I will grow old and ugly, also ugly. But, this painting will forever remain young. If only I could stay young, and if only this painting had aged, not me! If it could be like that, if it could be like that - I am willing to give everything so that this can happen. Yes, there is nothing else I want in this world beyond my desire. I will give my soul.* " (TPODG /page.34 paragraph.3.4). In the Dorian's statement, Dorian began to think that he would turn older and frightening so that he could no longer enjoy his youth. Starting from the influence given by his friend, Lord Henry, so that Dorian began to think about living his youth by enjoying everything he enjoyed in his youth without thinking about the bad effects that would happen, and Dorian began to do whatever could make him feel happy and satisfied.

Another thing that is also important in a hedonistic lifestyle is how a person can become a hedonist. In the findings above, the authors found 2 main factors that make a person a hedonist, namely internal factors and external factors. The internal factor in the novel is a factor that comes from itself, namely Dorian, as a result of his innocence receiving external influences. We can see how the Dorian attitude when Lord Henry spread the hedonism to him as in his statement : *Lord Henry smiled, and looked at Dorian Gray. "Should I go, Mr. Gray?" He asked. "Oh please no, Lord Henry. I saw that Basil was in one about her sullen mood; and I couldn't help it when he sulked. In addition, I want you to tell me why I shouldn't do philanthropy."* (TPODG /page.20/Paragraph 8)

In this statement describes how Dorian looks very innocent by not letting Lord Henry go from his room. Basil, who knows that Henry means badly to Dorian, does not like Henry's behavior, but Dorian does not realize this and chooses to let Lord Henry stay with him, so that he is young for; Lord Henry to influence the next Dorian.

While external factors are factors that come from outside, in this novel, the external factor is shown by Lord Henry, one of Dorian's friends who influenced him to do anything to enjoy his youth as in his statement, Dorian stepped on the dais, in the atmosphere of a young Greek martyr, and made a little moue of dissatisfaction with Lord Henry, to whom he preferred to hate. He so disliked Hallward. They make a pleasant difference. And he has a very beautiful voice. After a while he said to her, *"Do you really have a very bad influence, Lord Henry? As bad as Basil said?"* *"There is no good influence, Mr. Gray. All influence is immoral, - immoral from a scientific point of view."* (TPODG/Page 23/p.2.5). It is Lord Henry who plays the most important role in turning him into a hedonist besides himself. Lord Henry is a highly educated and intelligent person who encourages Dorian to live life as a person who is only looking for pleasure without paying attention to the bad effects of morality that will occur. Lord Henry is the model of a friend who has a bad side to be shunned, his trademark that doesn't care about the consequences of his actions is a bad example to be a friend.

After all the freedom and pleasure that Dorian did and the bad results she felt, in the end it was only regret that she got. Dorian has nothing but regrets about the loss of his close friend Basil and his care and concern for his partner Sybil Vane. Dorian felt like she was sorry that she lost her precious moon and her friend and she lost herself who had thrown herself into a dark life and she couldn't repeat it. In his words on page.191 paragraph 2 Dorian expresses his regret for having entered into a hedonistic lifestyle, *'Yes, life is wonderful,' he muttered, 'but I wouldn't have the same life, Harry. And you don't have to say these fancy things to me. You don't know everything about me. I thought that if you did, even you would turn away from me.* Dorian feels bad influence has changed her and now that she can't do anything else to change her, her past hedonic past is something she regrets.

From the research findings above, it shows how the hedonism lifestyle has a bad impact on a person and also has the potential to destroy one's future because it makes a person no longer able to think clearly and only looks for what makes him happy for a while. So it is very important for ourselves or those around us to protect themselves from the notion of hedonism, especially for young people because the majority of those affected by this ideology are young people, and because this understanding has a very bad effect on someone's future life, by knowing what hedonism is, how this understanding arises and what consequences will be obtained, someone can close the possibility of things that can cause someone to fall into this hedonistic understanding.

4. CONCLUSION

The researcher makes a conclusion based on the finding that has explained in the previous part. Based on the novel "The Picture Of Dorian Gray" by Oscar Wilde, it can conclude above.

- a. Self is the main aspect in preventing negative lifestyle. When someone has strong inner principles, they will not be easily influenced by bad ideas. In this novel it is told that at first Dorian was an innocent and naive young man until he met Lord Henry Wotton. After meeting with Henry Wotton, Dorian became changed due to the lack of strong self-principles that made Dorian follow everything Henry Wotton said. Wotton and Dorian eventually became a hedonist. Starting from taking the decision to enjoy his youth and exploiting the charm of his looks to like a singer named Sybil Vane to do various things that he considers as pleasure even though it violates sin and he did the hedonist lifestyle in the city of London.
- b. Friendship relationships are the most important outside factors in shaping a person's personality identity. Of course after family, friends are the people closest to us so they have an important role in determining the character and pattern of one's life. Friends are the most influential figures in determining one's mindset and lifestyle. In this novel Lord Henry Wotton is a friend who has this bad influence. Henry is a very intelligent person, his words are very sweet, his way of influencing without coercing

and rationalizing a badness is able to make Dorian do unlimited pleasure without being directly involved with Dorian's actions.

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